

## **POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS & SOUND HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**1. Trash, Litter, & Debris:** In addition to being unsightly, solid wastes in storm water run-off degrades surface water quality by introducing non-biodegradable plastics, inks, dyes, fibers, and particulates into our streams, creeks, tributaries and rivers. Dispose of garbage and other solid wastes in the appropriate manner. Discarded trash and debris can impact the New River.

**2. Pet Feces/Animal Wastes:** Fecal coli form studies indicate dog waste is a major source of bacteria in storm water run-off. This goes for your cats too. Bacteria affects all aquatic life. Collect and discard your animal wastes as you would solid wastes. Bag it and trash it and you're helping keep the New River clean.

**3. Pesticides/Herbicides:** Got a garden or flower beds? Unwanted pests and weeds can be a problem. But remember that those pesticides and herbicides can also affect aquatic bugs and plant species beyond the area of your garden and flower beds. Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly and according to directions. Just b/c a little will do the job, don't assume that a whole bunch will do an even better job.....excess application of these chemicals ends up in storm water run-off and can impact the New River. Shop for environmentally friendly chemicals or go organic.

**4. Fertilizers & Grass Clippings:** Everyone wants a green and lush yard. However, fertilizers have nitrates and phosphates that support overproduction of algae and water weeds. Believe it or not, grass clippings have the same effect. Research studies indicate that 80 percent of the phosphorous from urban settings comes from lawn clippings and leaves that end up in street gutters (Plantalk, Colorado). While a few grass clippings mowed into the street look rather innocent, collectively they have a major impact on our water quality. However, research clearly demonstrates that with proper application (reading the directions), fertilizer does not pollute. Create a mulch pile, or allow your clippings to remain in your yard and you will be reducing storm water pollution.

**5. Soaps & Detergents:** Power washing the house, the driveway, or simply washing your cars w/ detergents and soaps can also introduce phosphate contaminants into our surface waters. Use detergents and soaps sparingly. A little goes a LONG way and you should always "read the directions". Excessive use of soaps contributes large quantities of contaminants into our surface waters.

**6. Changing POV Fluids:** Many personnel aboard MCBCL change their fluids in their POV's. Hazardous substances released via small drips or spills onto driveways, ditches, roads, garage ports, etc eventually make their way into our storm drains and subsequently, our rivers. Contain small releases w/ kitty litter or absorbent. Empty hazardous chemical containers at designated locations, and ensure leaks/drips on POV's are repaired as soon as possible.